

Carpenter House
55 East Town Street
Norwichtown
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-244

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

CARPENTER HOUSE

Location: 55 East Town Street, Norwichtown, New London County, Connecticut.

Present Owner: Shepard B. and Geneva S. Palmer, 55 East Town Street, Norwichtown, Connecticut.

Present Occupant: Owner.

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a two-and-a-half story, five bay brick house, built in 1793.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: In 1738 Joshua Huntington sold the property only to Andre' Richard, who built a house on it 1738-1740. In 1740 sold to Aaron Fish of Groton, Connecticut. In 1746-1747 sold to Daniel Needham. Decided to Daniel Needham, Jr., in 1754. Sold in 1761 to Benjamin Butler. Sold in 1793 to Gardner Carpenter who removed the original house and built the present one. At Gardner Carpenter's death, in 1816, sold to Joseph Huntington. Sold in 1841 to Rev. Hiram P. Arms.
- B. Date of erection: 1793.
- C. Notes on alterations and additions: During the occupancy of Joseph Huntington, about 1816, the third story and gambrel roof were added. This construction is of wood. There have been several one-story additions at the rear of the house. During the past year (1958), there has been a brick, one-story addition in the rear. This is a 16 foot by 26 foot family room with exposed beams and pine floor.
- D. References:
1. Anthony W. Hawthorne, "A Descriptive and Interpretive Analysis of the Gardner Carpenter House, #55 East Town Street, Norwichtown, Connecticut" (Student paper in office of Prof. Carroll L. V. Meeks, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, December 15, 1958).
 2. Mary E. Perkins, Old Houses of the Antient Town of Norwich, 1660-1800 (Norwich, Connecticut: 1895), pp. 268-270.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This is a two-and-a-half story, five bay, brick house, built in 1793.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The main body of the house is 42' (five bays) wide x 32' deep, two-and-a-half stories high. There is a one-story rear wing which is partly modern. The house faces southeast.
2. Foundations: Rough, coursed ashlar.
3. Wall construction: Brick walls, 12" thick, laid in Flemish bond, painted red.
4. Porches: Small, one-story high entrance porch with gable roof and round wood columns.
5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys: two interior chimneys in the main block; one in the rear wall of the main body; one modern one in the rear wing.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance on the southeast has an apparently later, lighted door, in a simple, unrelieved frame with a top light. There is a side door on the southwest and a rear door in the wing.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung windows with 6 light sash over 6 light sash. Shutters have adjustable louvers.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gambrel roof covered with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Eaves: Simple boxed eaves.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Central-hall type plan with living room, parlor, kitchen and dining room on the first floor; three bedrooms and two baths on the second floor; and two bedrooms on the third floor.

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2. Stairways: Two stairways: a main stairway at the front in the central hall, and a rear stairway.
3. Flooring: Wide oak, wide pine, and maple wood flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster ceilings; papered and paneled walls.
5. Trim: Molded wood trim, wainscot in some rooms.
6. Hardware: Some original wrought-iron hardware.
7. Lighting: Electric.
8. Heating: Central heating plus three fireplaces.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south-east, on a large, fairly level lot near the green of a small village.
2. Walks: Concrete and flagstone.
3. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal landscaping with lawn, shrubs, flowers, and trees.

Prepared by Shepard B. Palmer
55 East Town Street
Norwichtown, Connecticut
November 1958